

Conference Abstract

Use cases for Taxonomic Name Services

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Abstract

Catalogue of Life Plus (CoL+) was started in 2017 as a collaborative project between the Catalogue of Life ([COL](#)), the Global Biodiversity Information Facility ([GBIF](#)), [Naturalis Biodiversity Center](#), Barcode of Life Database ([BOLD](#)), Biodiversity Heritage Library ([BHL](#)), Encyclopedia of Life ([EOL](#)), Integrated Taxonomic Information System ([ITIS](#)) and representatives from natural history museum collections. The participants jointly recognized a need for the wider biodiversity community to coalesce around common and coordinated approaches for mobilizing and inter-linking biodiversity data and information across a range of scales, themes and types. The Catalogue of Life was identified as being the clear choice to deliver *taxonomic services* to support these partners. Taxonomic services refer to solutions that address challenges inherent to scientific names: the ubiquitous, and often sole, contextual linkage between a biodiversity data object and the taxon to which it is linked. Without access to expert-mediated taxonomic knowledge, biodiversity data networks risk integrating or delivering biodiversity data that is incomplete or may not make taxonomic sense.

As a globally comprehensive and expert-mediated taxonomic resource, the Catalogue of Life is well-positioned to provide the underlying data and services to address these challenges and support a broad community of stakeholders. With financial support from the Netherlands Biodiversity Information Facility, the Netherlands Ministry of Education, Science, and Culture as well as technical support from GBIF, CoL+ represents an effort to stabilize the Catalogue of Life checklist products and refine a roadmap for future services - services that must be informed by the needs of users.

The COL+ initiative provides an opportunity to document and understand the requirements of both Col current users and a wider future user base. Key to any expansion is ensuring a clear understanding and the appropriate response to user needs. This includes not only the requirements of "taxonomic data consumer" stakeholders, such as those listed above, but also the needs and motivations of the expert taxonomic community behind the current and future Catalogue of Life.

This session will focus on reviewing the user requirements of a diverse community of both taxonomic data producers and consumers and organizing these stories into a set of categories from which we will identify clear and useful tools and services. These will establish the basis for a compelling roadmap for the Catalogue of Life as an enabling foundation to an interlinked and global biodiversity data infrastructure.

Keywords

taxonomic name services, taxon concepts, nomenclature, synonymy, recall and precision

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